

**CLASS SPECIFICATION**  
**County of Fairfax, Virginia**

**CLASS CODE:** 2171

**TITLE:** FORENSIC ARTIST

**GRADE:** S-22

**DEFINITION:**

Under supervision, prepares composite drawings, renderings, illustrations and graphic designs to aid law enforcement and promote department's programs; and performs related work as required.

**DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CLASS:**

The Forensic Artist differs from the Graphic Artist class series in that the Forensic Artist specializes in freehand drawing of the human form, especially portrait renditions based on verbal descriptions from eyewitnesses, for law enforcement identification purposes, whereas the Graphic Artist series creates, designs, executes, and produces graphic arts materials and camera-ready art for instructional, production and administrative purposes, or public presentations.

**ILLUSTRATIVE DUTIES:**

Interviews witnesses and victims to create composite freehand drawings or sculptures of criminal suspects using pencil, ink, pen and brush;

Interviews witnesses so they can give written or verbal descriptions of jewelry, artifacts, weapons, vehicles, tattoos, clothing, etc. that would aid an investigation;

Creates a freehand drawing of the objects described by witnesses;

Prepares computerized or hand drawn images of missing persons based on information gained from interviews with relatives or witnesses;

Alters, modifies or retouches photographs to update the likeness of suspects for criminal identifications;

Provides illustrations and renders drawings by computer or hand that involve facial reconstructions, facial age progressions and photographic retouching;

Renders drawings to recreate likeness of decomposed faces, and faces and body parts mutilated as a result of crime or accident;

Prepares court exhibits of photographs and sketches;

Provides expert testimony on identification during criminal trials;

Uses computer assisted drafting and drawing software to supplement or in some cases instead of hand drawn sketches.

**REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES:**

Knowledge of modern law enforcement practices and methods;

Knowledge of the techniques of criminal identification;

Knowledge of basic art forms, especially the human body and face;

Knowledge of graphic design, including layout, paste up, camera-ready art work, type specifications, stock materials, equipment, and inventory;

Knowledge of basic drawing, proportion, perspective, cranial-facial anatomy, biological variations of race, sex, ethnicity, ancestry and age;

Working knowledge of computer assisted drafting and drawing systems;

Knowledge of the rules of evidence, evidence collection, chain-of-custody and court procedures and testimony;

Ability to care for and use commercial art materials and equipment;

Ability to prepare original designs, illustrations and sketches;

Ability to establish rapport with witnesses in order to obtain descriptions and prepare composite drawings based on descriptions;

Ability to render the human form (especially facial features) based on verbal descriptions, in anatomically correct illustrations;

Ability to conduct interviews without influencing the subject;

Ability to describe, either in writing or verbally, individual human identification characteristics;

Ability to prepare investigative reports related to Law Enforcement matters;.

Ability to draft to scale a crime scene reconstruction;

Ability to motivate and direct witnesses or citizens related to a case;

Ability to testify in court in the capacity of an expert witness.

#### **EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS:**

Any combination of education, experience, and training equivalent to:

Completion of a two year commercial art, graphic arts, design, illustration, or other form of art instruction, with emphasis in portrait drawing or painting; PLUS

Two years experience as a police artist, of which at least one year must include experience in computer generated facial imaging.

#### **CERTIFICATES AND LICENSES REQUIRED:**

Must possess a valid driver's license at time of appointment.

#### **NECESSARY SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:**

Must be a United States citizen.

Must be at least 18 years of age.

Must successfully complete a background investigation, and a polygraph examination.

Applicant finalists are required to participate in a practical exercise simulating a witness/victim interview and prepare a composite rendering.

ESTABLISHED: July 12, 2001